



Dear Commissioner Clyburn:

As a City Councilman and Mayor Pro-Tempore of Columbia, SC, I am writing you today to express support for your colleague, Chairman Tom Wheeler of the Federal Communications Commission, and his approach to open Internet regulation. Having served the people of Columbia since 2010, I have been amazed at the evolution of the Internet and its impact on my constituents' lives just in the last four years. A marvel of technology and innovation, the Internet has become an indispensable piece of civic connection and progress.

Among the benefits that the Internet brings, two stand out to me as being particularly important. First, the Internet is an open platform that allows any man or woman to make his or her voice heard. In that sense, it is the ultimate level playing field for both democracy and business. Second, that openness leads to incredible growth and dynamic change, the course of which is wholly unpredictable.

Preserving these qualities should be the top focus of policymakers like yourself and your fellow members of the FCC. Although the original 2010 Open Internet Order was struck down by the DC Circuit court earlier this year, Chairman Wheeler has done an admirable job of drafting new rules that both ensure Internet openness going forward, while hopefully meeting the court's interpretation of the laws. Importantly, Chairman Wheeler's proposal also allows for future adaptability in how the Commission will regulate the Internet, allowing you and your colleagues to be flexible when examining future developments in this dynamic marketplace.

Nevertheless, the most vocal opponents of Chairman Wheeler's plans seem to be those with the same priorities that he does: protecting an open Internet. Their approach, reclassifying broadband services under Title II of the Telecommunications Act, strikes me as poorly thought-out with little respect for the consequences it will have on the Internet.

Title II is an incredibly restrictive measure originally designed for the telephone monopolies of the last century, a situation antithetical to the status quo of the modern Internet marketplace. It imposes onerous requirements on Internet Service Providers and also casts a regulatory net that could ensnare industries that are currently lightly or not regulated (rightfully so) by the FCC, such as search engines and content providers.

Fortunately, Chairman Wheeler's proposal would accomplish the same goals while not

constricting the future growth of the Internet. In light of the costs of Title II and the robust oversight inherent in the Chairman's proposal, I strongly urge you and your fellow commissioners to back Chairman Wheeler in ensuring an open, innovative Internet in the decades to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Newman", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian Newman